



MINUTES

Parent Teacher Association

Monday, September 17, 2018, @ 6:00 pm | *Meeting called to order by Lissa Wolfe*

In Attendance

Board Members: Nan Richardson Co-President; Lissa Wolfe, Co-President; Theresa Jordan, Vice-President; Susan Bailey, Ocean Engineering Parent; Bill Seery & Penelope Clarke-May, Marine Science Parents; Liana Huth, Professional Diving Parent; Susan Tobias, Aquaculture Parent,

(Absent Board Members were Treasurer Michele Lardou, Lisa Edstrom, MST parent, Ellen Dobbryn-Blackmore, Marine Policy parent, Marjike Briggs, Professional Diving Parent)

Harbor Leadership: Dr. Jeff Chetirko, Principal; Ronni Ettinger, Parent Coordinator

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were read from the June meeting. Pam Bailey made a motion to approve minutes. Seconded by Theresa Jordan. Minutes approved by a unanimous vote.

Board

Lissa W. welcomed parents and introduced the Board and NYHS staff.

Elections were then held for vacant Executive Board positions. The following positions were filled:

- Recording Secretary – Marjorie Richards
- Fundraising Chairs- Georgia Stephanides, and Nikita Huggins

(This election followed a brief overview of the calendar year's PTA activities that Nan R. and Lissa W. provided, such as coordinating Harvest fest, working with each CTE to coordinate their own parties and fundraising activities, working with Lissa on Springtide, overseeing the Oyster Classic Race, having other innovative ideas for fundraising. The chairperson should be at the Executive Board meetings since it is an Exec Bd position. This position can be co-chaired since there are many responsibilities.

- MST Co-Parent – Raquel Morales
 - Aquaculture Co-Parent – Kelly Vilar
 - Ocean Engineering Co-Parent – Nancy Usiatynski
 - Freshman Representative – Emma Acker and Kathleen Daniels
 - Marine Policy Co-Parent – still vacant
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SLT Committee Report

Nan R. introduced Raquel Morales and, Penelope Clarke May as fellow SLT members and mentioned Lisa Edstrom and Andre Amrhein (absent at this meeting) were also parent members. She summarized the last SLT meeting as being largely procedural, with elections for chairman, who is now UFT rep Michael Vlahovic, and Secretary, Rick Lee, and a revision and correction of the Bylaws so that the committee now consists of 5 teachers, 5 parents, and (eventually) 5 students. The BOP was absent, so only the Principal reported and the PTA reported. The purpose of the SLT Committee is for 1) all of the school's stakeholders to have a say in how the school is run and 2) for there to be transparency on matters such as the budget of the school and CEP goals

and outcomes. The next meeting will be October 18 at the school and parents are welcome to come and speak (but cannot vote, according to the SLT regulations).

Committee Reports

Nan R. briefly described the PTA Committees looking for new help and urged all to sign up at the table for the initiatives that most interested them. They include:

The **School Expansion Committee**, which is seeking support for an Aquatic Training Center on the island as well as following closely the SCA/DOE promise to give us a new building with 14 classrooms and a gymnasium. The site for the latter is still not decided and we need to pay close attention there.

The **Garden, Sustainability and Wellness Committee** is working to get better food in the school as only 1/3 of our kids eat lunch. The good news is we will soon do a Tasting Day that tries out new recipes and if the kids like them they will be rolled out and we will get the Alternative menu which is more plant based, fresher, more local, organic and altogether high quality. If the kids VOTE with their stomachs we will get the new menu in January. She urged parents to tell the kids (once we let you know when this new menu starts) to swipe and eat the new school lunch. The **Community Committee** which is more classic PTA activities like appreciation lunches, and food sales etc., the **Membership and Alumni Committee** (as we need to grow in diversity, in numbers and bring our Alumni back home in this anniversary year for so many reasons. Money being one yes, but also the connections they will help make for our students- advice, internships, jobs). Lastly **Seniors** and Grants, which are what they are.

Treasurer's Report

As Michel Lardou was not here, the report was given by Lissa W: It is largely identical to the June report except that money is now starting to come in from All-Hands-on-Deck and from selling Harbor swag, so while we do not have a final total for this month, we will at next meeting.

In another development this week, Aaron Singh raised \$1800 through his Facebook GoFundMe page. The money raised will be credited to the PTA but will be used to fund a Vessel Op need.

The money we've raised as a PTA has gone up exponentially; from \$3000 2 years ago to \$44,000 last year. This year our fundraising goal is 75K. It's a lot but Lissa feels we can do it. All money raised has been used to purchase equipment for the school, ie. calculators, monitors, special books, or to CTEs that request money for gear/equipment. The money is requested from us by the teachers, so it goes to fulfill specific named needs.

Principal's Report

- Summer school on the Island did extremely well.
- Indock – over 100 students attended
- 25 paid student internships from B.O.P. and Friends of Governors Island. Freshman should join clubs to establish relationships with teachers in order to be considered for internships in 12th grade.
- Teachers are sharing unit plans to see where disciplines merge. Want to include CTEs as well. Teachers are also focusing on equity in the classroom. They are creating different discussion protocols so all voices are heard.
- There are 2 new Assistant Principals Diana (Humanities & Language) and Jackie (CTEs and some teachers)
- Aneal had back surgery. Is expected to return in 2 weeks
- New teachers and faculty changes– Peter Williams (Earth Science & Physics), Diedre Walker – Algebra I&II, 3 new Special Education teachers, 3 new History teachers, we now have 10 paras and 2 Deans.
- Budget is growing because of higher student enrollment

- Focusing on building teacher leadership capacity.
- Activity Fair on Tuesday 9/18 and Thursday 9/20 off the 7:30 am boat.
- No school this Wednesday, 9/19/18
- Curriculum Night Thursday 9/27/18 3:45 pm – 6:00 pm. This is just a getting to know you session for parents and teachers.
- MP 1 ends Friday, October 19th. End of the Fall semester is January 31, 2019. These grades go on the student transcript.

Icebreaker/Breakout Group Sessions

The parents broke into three groups and introduced each other and discussed for 15 minutes what they hoped for this year at Harbor. Then the group reconvened and shared some of the observations and questions that emerged. Some issues raised were: Freshmen locker needs, School Expansion & Pool, water fountains and need to stay in touch with Alums.

Parent Coordinator Report

Ronnie Ettinger spoke about the upcoming Activities Day for the students, Curriculum Night, September 26, and Picture Days October 11 and 12.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 16, 2018.

Location: 81 New St. 5th-floor Cafeteria @ 6:00 pm

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:00 pm and passed unanimously.